

NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal, Missouri Meritorious Service Medal, Missouri Conspicuous Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal: Indiana, Minnesota, and Tennessee; Minnesota Medal for Merit, 1992 Distinguished Alumni-Award-Westminster College, Field Artillery Association Order of St. Barbara, Army Engineers Association Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal, and the Sons of the American Revolution Silver Good Citizenship Award.

Madam Speaker, General Kiefner was a valuable leader who was respected by everyone who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife Marilyn and his sons, John and Keith.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD G.
JONILA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Ronald G. Jonila, and to celebrate his lifelong commitment to the American worker. As the president of the United Auto Worker's Local 1005, Ron was an active proponent for worker's rights and served his union with integrity and honor.

For years, the American workforce has been confronted with numerous challenges from our economy and our world. Through it all, Ron was a model of constancy, devoting all his efforts to protecting workers' rights, fighting for workforce protections, and ensuring that Local 1005 thrived in an environment increasingly inhospitable to the American worker.

Ron never shied from a battle when his brothers and sisters of Local 1005 stood in harm's way. Whether the issue was jobs, health care, pensions, or working conditions, Ron always led the charge, and Local 1005 was well-served by his leadership.

Ron's devotion to the labor movement was exceeded in intensity and passion only by his commitment to his family. Ron was a generous and caring husband to Patricia; a loving father to Anthony, Nicholas, Thomas and Christopher; and the proud "Papa" of Jason and Thomas.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Ron Jonila. On February 20, 2007 we lost a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, friend and brother, but his unwavering commitment to family as well as the American workforce will serve as a model for us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE DE LA
CRUZ

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest of pleasure that I rise today to honor a renowned reporter from my district, Mike De La Cruz, who retired from the Merced Sun Star on December 29, 2006 after more than 37 years on the beat.

Mike De La Cruz was the authority in and around Merced on news relating to law en-

forcement. He developed a great relationship with local authorities and earned the reputation of being a knowledgeable and ethical reporter. He chronicled Merced County's criminals in a style that mixed straight news with a tone of mild bemusement at how people ended up on the wrong side of the law.

Throughout his career, Mike has had his share of memorable moments such as the time he broke his ankle jumping over a fence while attempting to cover a police raid on marijuana growers. Or the time he suffered a terrible sunburn after waiting for hours in an orchard for deputies to bust a cock-fighting ring. Whatever the situation, Mike utilized his extensive contacts to ensure his stories were accurate, and at the same time to assure the people of Merced that law enforcement was looking out for them. Over the 37 years that he put pen to paper, Mike always garnered respect for his balanced reporting.

Madam Speaker, journalism in Merced will never be the same without the quick witted and balanced reporting of Mike De La Cruz. He will be missed by local law enforcement and the faithful readers of the Merced Sun Star. I want to take this time to express my sincere thanks to Mike De La Cruz for his many years of dedicated service and for all that he has done for our community. I certainly hope his future is as colorful and rewarding as his past. My fellow colleagues, I ask that you please rise to join me in honoring Mike De La Cruz.

TELEPHONE FEDERAL EXCISE TAX
REPEAL BILL INTRODUCTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. JOHN LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representative JIM RAMSTAD, Representative RICK BOUCHER, and Representative GARY MILLER to introduce the Telephone Excise Repeal Act of 2007. Our bill will repeal this 107-year-old tax that is outdated and is only paid by Americans that cannot pay for expensive communications services.

The telephone FET was introduced in 1898 as a "luxury" tax to fund the Spanish American War. While it may have made sense then, there is no question that telecommunication services today are necessities, not luxuries.

Telephone tax revenues, first collected in 1898 to help finance the Spanish-American War, are deposited in the General Fund. Unlike other excise tax revenues, these revenues are not deposited into a specific account such as the Highway Trust Fund, which is made up of gas tax revenues. Additionally, other excise taxes serve the purpose of decreasing consumption of the taxed product; the FET serves no such purpose. A telephone is a necessity for every American, and thus does not fit with this list of "luxury" and other excise tax items.

The FET is now regressive and disproportionately burdens low-income, rural and lifeline telephone subscribers who have only local telephone service. As more and more Americans buy bundled communication services, the projected tax revenue collected from the FET continues to decrease and only affect those

with the least means to purchase more costly packages. CBO estimates that this tax will bring in \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

This tax is contrary to the national goal of having an advanced, highly efficient, and low cost communications network to serve the American people. Please help us hang up on the telephone tax by joining us on this legislation.

HONORING DR. JAMES WILSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Wilson, director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Dr. Wilson has recently been appointed to the National Cancer Institute's board of scientific advisors due to his outstanding achievements in the field of medicine. As a medical expert on the panel, he will be advising the NCI director on a variety of issues concerning scientific program policy, as well as the progress and future direction of extramural research programs of the cancer institute. As a UT Southwestern Medical Center alumnus, it is with great honor that I am able to congratulate Dr. James Wilson on his prestigious appointment. His intelligence and dedication to the field of science and medicine has proven him to be an outstanding professor and mentor. Dr. Wilson is an inspiration and a role model to many, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM
GRIFFEN

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the truly honorable life of Mr. William Griffen of Tully, New York. Mr. Griffen was a student, an educator, an activist, a writer, a father, a husband, a friend, a neighbor, and an inspiration. Mr. Griffen will be remembered for the enthusiasm and sincerity he brought to his work throughout his 78 years.

Mr. Griffen attended SUNY Cortland where he received his B.S. in Education and went on to attend Cornell University, earning his M.A. and Ed.D. Mr. Griffen taught in Brentwood and Marathon, New York, for several years before returning to Cortland to become SUNY Cortland's longest-tenured Professor of Education. A beloved institution, Mr. Griffen was also honored as a distinguished alumnus of the university, "teaching for over forty years and diligently working for peace and social justice at the local, state, national and international levels."

Mr. Griffen aspired to influence our country on many levels, running for Congress twice, in 1968 and 1990. His extensive contribution through his writings has been seen in over 50 articles addressing war, technology, civil